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The Enemies of England. By the HONORABLE GEORGE PEEL.
(London : Edward Arnold ; New York : Longmans, Green, and
Company. 1902. Pp. x, 287.)

THE late remarkable discussions in the English Parliament and press on the ever increasing armaments would make a thorough treatise on England's enemies very timely, since it is presumably in large measure due to the Anglophobia of the continent that England is incurring the heavy annual expenditures of her military and naval budget. Indeed, according to the Honorable Mr. Peel, this hostility is a much more important cause even than is usually supposed. The enmity and hatred of continental powers, he declares, has been and will remain the permanent and determining factor in English politics ; it is "the pivot of our foreign, or even of our domestic affairs ; it dominates our finances ; it regulates our armaments ; it presses, like the air we breathe, upon every pore of the commonwealth."

The cause, origin, and history of this antipathy forms the real text of Mr. Peel's book. The explanations commonly adduced are all insufficient, says the author. "Neither race, nor religion, nor manners, nor trade, nor envy, nor nature, satisfactorily account for this antagonism." The explanation must be found in the attitude of England during the long process of the reconstitution of Europe after the triumph over barbarism in the eleventh century. The historic development of the present European commonwealth of twenty states is marked at frequent intervals by the rise of a single state that threatened for the time being to absorb and dominate its neighbors. At such times England invariably appeared as the guardian of European liberties, thwarting the cherished aspirations for universal dominion just at the moment when they seemed nearest their realization. This Mr. Peel declares to be the "true cause." When the papacy was all-powerful and demanded fealty from the European states, England set the example of independence, and when the terms of Villafranca and Zürich might have secured to the pope the headship of the Italian state, the machinations of England frustrated the "holy plan." It was England that checked Spain in her career toward a world-empire, overthrew the rising supremacy of the Dutch, and thwarted the ambitions of France under Louis XIV. and Napoleon I.; and in our own time she alone among the powers stands as the insuperable obstacle to the attainment of undue power and influence by Russia and Germany. England, "the champion of the liberties of Europe during eight centuries," has barred the way to the ambitions of the continental powers. Their hatred and hostility have been the result. To this, the great primary cause, the author adds another. It lies in the fact that England alone has established outside of Europe nations of her own blood, language, and institutions, thereby impairing the ascendancy of Europe and setting up a perpetual barrier against the ambitions of the old states.

In the development of the subject the simple chronological method is pursued ; the enmity of the different countries as it appears in history

constitutes the subject of nine out of the twelve chapters. It is in the discussion of these topics that the student of history is chiefly interested. The theory, however plausible, can be of value only in so far as it is based on the facts of history. Unfortunately these historical chapters are on the whole disappointing. The theory is so uppermost in the mind of the author that history is frequently misinterpreted to bear it out. How can we otherwise account for the extraordinary idea that England's policy in the Hundred Years' War was prompted by the interests of European liberty against the dangers of French ambition for ascendancy on the continent (p. 21); or how explain the use made of the strife for "another half-century and more . . . for a Calais which England would not yield" (p. 84)? The wars of England against Holland in the seventeenth century are not usually looked upon as wars in the interest of European liberty.

Errors are not infrequent. The marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella in 1479 (p. 94); Cardinal Beaufort, half-brother of Henry VI. (p. 88); the race that had driven out the Cæsars (p. 126); the motives of Henry VIII. for the divorce from Catherine (p. 100) serve as illustrations. The sense of proportion is poor. Nearly four pages on Solymán the Magnificent (pp. 102-105) and a remarkable paragraph on Selim I. as a poet (p. 102) are scarcely warranted at the expense of only incidental mention of the Armada. Closely associated with the tendency to introduce irrelevant matter is the inordinate use of figurative language. The frequent figures of speech, though sometimes very happy, are more frequently superfluous and often comical. On page 48 we find the "Normans, seated on the Channel"; a little further on, "Louis XIV. . . . sent a shock of pain along every nerve of the English people"; and after the Congress of Vienna "England turned her face from that embittered continent, sheathed her red victorious weapon, shook out her white untarnished canvas, and stood to sea."

The volume contains much that is valuable and suggestive, but the theory dominates the facts, and even the most patriotic Englishman will be surprised to find how absolutely immaculate and devoid of all selfish designs has been his country's international policy.

Studies in the History of Educational Opinion from the Renaissance.

By S. S. LAURIE, A.M., LL.D., Professor of the Institutes and History of Education, University of Edinburgh. (New York: The Macmillan Company; Cambridge: At the University Press. 1903. Pp. vii, 261.)

THE author had in view in the preparation of this work "the education of those who mean to devote their lives to education" (preface, vi). Of the sixteen chapters which the book contains, the first three are devoted to the educational bearings of the great Renaissance, with especial reference to Vittorino da Feltre, Trotzendorf, Sturm, and Neander; the fourth offers a brief survey of the beginnings of humanism in the universities, with an interesting reference to George Buchanan; the three